

Message Text

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65

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TO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SCUL

SUBJECT: PRIVATE EUROPEAN TOUR OF;EL TEATRO CAMPESINO"

REF: US BERLIN 1710; PARIS 24208

1. DEPT. NOT YET ABLE REACH THEATRE COMPANY TO ASCERTAIN
DETAILS OF TOUR OR DESCRIPTION OF PLAY "LA GRAN CARPA DE
LOS RASQUACHIS" WHICH WE HAVE LEARNED TRANSLATES AS "TENT
OF THE UNDERDOG."

2. HAVE LEARNED FROM ITI NEW YORK THAT GROUP DEPARTS
AUGUST 24 FOR BRUSSELS AND THEN MILAN. BALANCE OF ITINERARY
UNKNOWN.

3. COMPANY DESCRIBED IN THEATRE PROFILES/2 AS FOLLOWS:
FOUNDED IN 1965 EL TEATRO CAMPESINO (FARMWORKERS' THEATRE)
WAS BORN OUT OF THE HUELGA (LABOR STRIKE) OF UNITED
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FARMWORKERS PICKET LINES. ...COMPANY HAD NO PROPS, SCENERY,

SCRIPTS OR STAGE. REALITY WAS THEIR THEATRE. TO MAKE STRIKERS LAUGH... (THEY) DEVELOPED BROAD, FAST-PACED SLAPSTICK FORM OF COMEDY...EVERYTHING IMPROVISED AND DEVELOPED SHORT FORM "THE ACTO." IN 1967 ESTABLISHED AN IMPOVERISHED CULTURAL CENTER WHICH LED TO FIRST-FULL-LENGTH PLAY WHICH DRAMATIZED THE SOCIAL DESPAIR OF A CHICANO

FAMILY LIVING IN AN ANGLO-DOMINATED SOCIETY"...PERFORMED IN NANCY FESTIVAL IN 1969...WHILE CONTINUING STRUGGLE WITH UNITED FARM WORKERS, EL CENTRO CAMPESINO CULTURAL HAS DETERMINED THAT THE ULTIMATE FREEDOM OF FARMWORKER MEANS OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND HE WORKS...THE THEATRE'S PRIMARY AIM IS TO COMBAT POVERTY AND OPPRESSION, AND THE PREVAILING MESSAGE OF ALL ITS PERFORMANCES IS STILL AS DIRECT AS CAN BE, "ORGANIZENSE RAZA;" (A PLEA FOR UNIFICATION OF CHICANO PEOPLE). THEATRE USES BILINGUAL SPEECH AND CONTAINS MUCH LAUGHTER AND SONG IN AN ATTEMPT TO REFLECT DAILY LIFE OF THE COUNTLESS URBAN AND RURAL BARRIOS WHERE CHICANO PEOPLE EXIST." KISSINGER

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